

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 253369 TOSEC 160334

50

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

66622

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:PJOHNSON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PJOHNSON

----- 124158

O 241315Z OCT 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 253369 TOSEC 160334

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS, MADRID,
RABAT, USUN FROM NOUACHOTT OCT 23:

QUOTE S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 2179

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR UN MR MO SP AG SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: PARTITION VS ANNEXATION

REF: RABAT 5115; USUN 5264

1. IF WE ARE GOING TO BACK AWAY FROM ELOQUENT RE-STATE-
MENT OF U.S. DEDICATION TO SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH AMBASSADOR
WHITE MADE A FEW DAYS AGO IN NEW YORK AND BEGIN, FOR PRAGMA-
TIC GEOPOLITICAL REASONS, TO SUPPORT TAKEOVER OF SAHARA BY
INTERESTED PARTIES, WE HAD BETTER EMBARK ON MAJOR EFFORT TO
MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT TAKEOVER IS IN FACT A MAURITANIAN-
MOROCCAN PARTITION AND NOT A UNILATERAL MOROCCAN ANNEXATION.
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MOROCCAN STATEMENTS COMING OUT OF
RABAT, NEW YORK, AND MARRAKESH THIS PAST WEEK SUGGEST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 253369 TOSEC 160334

VERY STRONGLY THAT MOROCCANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF HONORING

AGREEMENT THEY MADE WITH MAURITANIANS TO DIVVY UP SAHARA.

2. A MORE OR LESS EQUAL PARTITION OF SAHARA HAS SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE, ALBEIT GRUDGING, BY ALL EXPONENTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN AFRICA AND AROUND WORLD, AND, IT WOULD SEEM FROM HERE, ABOVE ALL BY ALGERIA, THAN OUTRIGHT ANNEXATION BY HASSAN'S MOROCCO. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF WE OR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN INSURE THAT PARTITION FORMULA INCLUDES SOME POLLING OF SAHARA RESIDENTS ON FINAL LOCATION OF PARTITION LINE AND ON THEIR DESIRES ABOUT BECOMING EITHER MOROCCANS OR MAURITANIANS.

3. MORE PRACTICALLY AND MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, IF MAURITANIAN ASPIRATIONS ARE FRUSTRATED BY A GREEDY MOROCCO, IT IS VIRTUAL CERTAINTY THAT GIRM, GIVEN MAURITANIAN DISTRUST AND DISLIKE OF MOROCCANS (SEE NOUAKCHOTT 1479), WILL MAKE DETERMINED EFFORT TO FORESTALL ESTABLISHMENT OF MOROCCAN AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN TWO-THIRDS OF SAHARA OR TO OUST IT ONCE IMPOSED, SEEKING SUPPORT OF AND PERHAPS JOINING FORCES WITH POLISARI AND ALGERIA (AND CONCEIVABLY EVEN LIBYA) TO THIS END. WHILE EACH MEMBER OF SUCH AN ANTI-MOROCCAN ALLIANCE WOULD CLEARLY HAVE QUITE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR PARTICIPATION, THEY WOULD HAVE SAME OBJECTIVE: CONTAINING MOROCCO AND KEEPING PRESSURE ON KING HASSAN.

4. MAURITANIANS HAVE BEEN OPENLY, VIGOROUSLY, AND REGULARLY CALLING FOR DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN OCCUPIER FROM AND ASSERTING THEIR CLAIM TO ALL OF WESTERN SAHARA UP TO THE WADI DRAA (SOME 240 KILOMETERS NORTHWARD UP COAST FROM PRESENT MOROCCO-SAHARA FRONTIER) FOR 18 YEARS. THEY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS (WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR ADMITTEDLY MODEST CAPABILITIES)--ALONE OR WITH OUTSIDE HELP--TO ESTABLISH THE GREATER MAURITANIA OF THEIR DREAMS FOR THE NEXT 18 YEARS OR FOR HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES TO OUST THE NEW FOREIGN COLONIZER FROM THEIR HOMELAND. FACT THAT NEW COLONIZER MAY BE THEIR MOROCCAN "BROTHERS" WILL NOT ALTER THE QUESTION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 253369 TOSEC 160334

5. THAT BEING THE CASE, IF THE USG DECIDES THAT THE DEVELOPING SAHARA SITUATION NOW REQUIRES US TO ABANDON OUR PREVIOUS STANCE OF STRICT NEUTRALITY AMONG PARTIES AND TO BEGIN, IN ORDER TO INSURE A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM, TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY ONE OF THE PROTAGONISTS-- MOROCCO, WE SHOULD IN RETURN INSIST THAT KING HASSAN PURSUE A RESOLUTION OF SAHARA PROBLEM WHICH MAXIMIZES

CHANCES OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE AND MINI-
MIZES POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER REGIONAL INSTABILITY AND
POTENTIAL CONFLICT. PARTITION, YES; ANNEXATION, NO.
HANDYSIDE UNQUOTE INGERSOL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLICIES, ANNEXATION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE253369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:PJOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750370-0652
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751023/aaaaaupl.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 RABAT 5115
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: PARTITION VS ANNEXATION
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MR, MO, SP, AG, SS, US, UN
To: SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006